

Please add new claim 23 as follows:

23. (New) A printing form prepared from the lithographic print form precursor of claim 1.

REMARKS

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the present amendment in the cited application. After entering this amendment, claims 1-7, 9, 11-17 and 22-23 are at issue. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 12-15, 17 and 22 are all amended. Claim 23 is new.

Applicants submit that the amendment to the claims are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed and do not include new matter. ✓

Further, Applicants submit that the claims have been amended to overcome the various rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 set out in the office action. Specifically, claims 3 and 4 now recite accepted Markush group terminology. Claims 7, 13 and 15 now refer to the "imagable coating" terminology. Claim 12 now refers to the "colorant groups." Claim 14 now only recites "naphthoflavone" once. In view of the amendment to the claims, Applicants request that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112 be withdrawn. ✓

In the outstanding office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17-19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,124,425 (Nguyen). Further, claims 7, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of U.S. 6,074,797 (Suezawa) with U.S. 6,447,895 (Kamir et al) and U.S. 6,170,292 (Boulos et al). Finally, claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of WO 99/01795 (McCullough et al).

In sum, all of these rejected claims were opined to be either anticipated by or unpatentable over Nguyen, either alone or combined with other references. However, the Examiner expressly noted that Nguyen does not teach or suggest the claimed "reversible insolubilizer groups" of claim 10. Therefore, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recited that the imagable coating comprises the reversible insolubilizer groups of claim 10. In view of this amendment, and that the other pending claims either depend from claim 1 or recite the same imagable coating system set out in claim 1, Applicants submit that the rejections under

either 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been overcome and request that the Examiner withdraw those rejections.

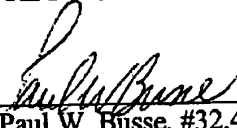
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully Submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

[0048] Examples of suitable carbonyl containing compounds are ~~naphthoflavone~~, naphthoflavone, 2,3-diphenyl-1-indeneone, flavone, flavanone, xanthone, benzophenone, N-(4-(bromobutyl)phthalimide and phenanthrenequinone.

In the Claims: ✓

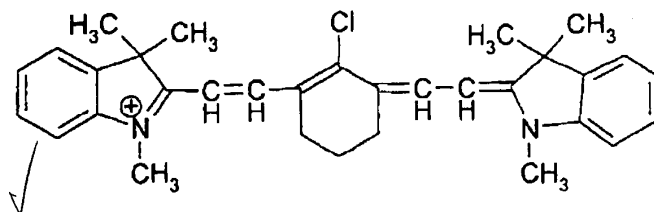
1. A lithographic printing form precursor having an imagable coating on an aluminum support, wherein the imagable coating comprises a polymeric substance comprising colorant groups, and reversible insolubilizer groups selected from the group consisting of -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups, wherein the aluminum support on which the coating is provided is anodized but not subsequently modified by means of a post-anodic treatment compound, and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye.

2. ~~A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric substance is derived from a polymer comprising hydroxyl groups, able to react with a colorant compound or moiety.~~ ✓

3. A precursor as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymeric substance is ~~selected from the group comprising~~ selected from the group comprising a phenolic resin selected from the group consisting of a novolac resin, a resole resin, a novolac/resole resin mixture, and polyhydroxystyrene, or ~~or~~ and a copolymer of hydroxystyrene, in each case comprising colorant groups, in each case comprising colorant groups.

4. A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric substance comprises colorant groups ~~derived~~ derived/selected from the group ~~comprising~~ comprising/consisting of triarylmethene dyes, quaternized heterocyclic

compounds, quinolinium compounds, benzothiazolium compounds, pyridinium compounds, polymethine dyes, cyanine dyes, Methylene blue, ~~or~~ and a dye having the cation



7. A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition imagable coating composition comprises a free infra-red absorbing compound.

8. ~~A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric substance comprises reversible insolubilizer groups.~~

9. A precursor as claimed in claim ~~8, 8, 1~~, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are also ~~reversible insolubilizer~~ colorant ~~colorant~~ groups.

10. ~~A precursor as claimed in claim 8, wherein reversible insolubilizer groups are selected from -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups.~~
 10. A precursor as claimed in claim 8, wherein are selected from -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups

12. A precursor as claimed in claim 11, wherein the functional functional colorant groups are ~~polymethine dyes or cyanine dyes~~.

13. A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition composition imagable coating comprises a free compound which acts as a reversible insolubilizer compound.

14. A precursor as claimed in claim 13, wherein the free reversible insolubilizer compound is selected from the group consisting of naphthoflavone, ~~naphthoflavone~~, ~~-naphthoflavone~~, 2,3-diphenyl-1-indeneone, flavone, flavarnone, xanthone, benzophenone, N-(4-bromobutyl) phthalimide and phenanthrenequinone.

15. A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition composition imagable coating comprises a pigment.

17. A method of preparing a lithographic printing form precursor having an imagable coating on an aluminum support, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) anodizing an aluminum sheet (which is to serve as the sheet (which is to serve as the support)); and
- b) without having effected a chemical treatment step after the anodizing step, applying a composition comprising a polymeric substance to the anodized surface of the aluminum sheet and drying the composition to form the imagable coating thereon, wherein the imagable coating comprises a polymeric substance comprises pendentcomprises pendentcomprising colorant groups, and reversible insolubilizer groups selected from the group consisting of -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups, and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye wherein the composition does not contain a free colorant dye.

~~18. A method of making a printing form from a printing form precursor, tile precursor comprising an imagable coating on an aluminum support, wherein the imagable coating comprises a polymeric substance comprising colorant groups, the aluminum support on which the coating is provided is anodized but not subsequently modified by means of a post-anodic treatment, and wherein the coating does not comprise a colorant dye, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- ~~a) exposing the coating imagewise; and~~
- ~~b) removing the exposed regions of the coating using a developer liquid.~~

~~19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the developer liquid is an aqueous alkaline developer.~~

~~20. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein imagewise exposure is effected by contacting the coating with a heat stylus.~~

~~21. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein imagewise exposure of the coating is effected using electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength between 600 and~~

~~1400 nm, the coating containing means for absorbing radiation of such wavelength and producing heat. 21. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein imagewise exposure of the coating is effected using electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength between 600 and 1400 nm, the coating containing means for absorbing radiation of such wavelength and producing heat.~~

22. A printing form prepared by thea method of claim 18.17 comprising the steps of
- a) anodizing an aluminum support;
 - b) without having effected a chemical treatment step after the anodizing step, applying a composition comprising a polymeric substance to the anodized surface of the aluminum sheet and drying the composition to form an imagable coating thereon, wherein the imagable coating comprises a polymeric substance comprising colorant groups, and reversible insolubilizer groups selected from the group consisting of -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl and -O-CO-Ph and diazide functional groups, and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye;
 - c) exposing the coating imagewise, and;
 - d) removing the exposed regions of the coating using a developer liquid.
23. A printing form prepared from the lithographic print form precursor of claim 1.

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